1	2	3
7.	Maharashtra	49
8.	Pondicherry	1
9.	Rajasthan	78
10	Tamil Nadu	7
11.	Uttar Pradesh	4
12.	Uttaranchal	6
13.	West Bengal	6
	TOTAL	215*

*Out of 238 total approvals given under the Industrial Park Scheme, 2002, 23 have been withdrawn.

Import of soda ash

2484. SHRI SURENDRA MOTILAL PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a tact that more soda ash import is being made due to reduction in import duty,

(b) if so, the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to protect the domestic manufacturer of soda ash industry; and

(c) what steps Government proposes to increase soda ash production as soda ash is an intermediate product used in the production of soap, detergent, glass, colour, dye-staff and other chemicals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) soda ash is delicenced and 100% FDI is permitted to encourage domestic production. Import of soda ash is free. Existing customs duty on soda ash is 7.5%. There is no reduction in duty during 2008-09. The shortfall in the production of soda ash in 2006-07 was due to closure of one of the manufacturers of soda ash for few months. The domestic production, import and export of soda ash for last four years is as follows:—

Year	Production (in MT)	Qty. (MT)	Import value (Rs. Lakhs)	Unit value (Rs. Per MT)	Qty. (MT)	Export value (Rs. Lakhs)	Unit value (Rs. Per MT)
2003-04	21,67,079	1,28,365	7502	5844	1,83,864	9651	5249
2004-05	22,87, 244	1,87,502	11,859	6325	3,19,282	21,485	6729
2005-06	22,98,241	6,52,756	11,872	1819	1,97,225	15,545	7882
2006-07	20,78,057	2,60,386	21,394	8216	1,36,991	10,472	7644

It may be seen from the latest export price of Rs. 7644 per MT is lower than the import price of Rs. 8216 per MT indicating competitiveness of Indian soda ash industry.